



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 50 NEW JOBS IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY
\$100,000 One North Carolina Fund Grant Helps Siméus Foods Expand

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Siméus Foods, makers of food products for the restaurant industry, is expanding its facility in Rutherford County, adding 50 new jobs and \$4.9 million investment in the area. The announcement was made possible in part by a \$100,000 One North Carolina Fund grant.

"Siméus Foods' choice of Forest City for its plant expansion is a big win for the county, bringing 50 quality jobs to 50 hard-working North Carolina families," Easley said. "We will continue to make the necessary investments that provide companies like Siméus Foods the skilled workforce they require."

Based in Mansfield, Texas, Siméus Foods produces a variety of food products including appetizers, breaded foods, meats, soups and side dishes.

Siméus Foods' expansion of its 175,000-square-foot facility in Rutherford County, which first opened 30 years ago, will allow the company to produce new lines of soups and sauces for the restaurant industry. While wages will vary, the expected average weekly wage of the new jobs is \$483, plus benefits. The average weekly wage in Rutherford County, which has an unemployment rate of 9.1 percent, is \$492, plus benefits.

"The decision to expand the capacity at our Forest City facility by over 150 percent was driven by several factors," said Larry Adcock, vice president and chief financial officer at Siméus Foods. "Among them are the crucial financial incentives from both the local and state government, a reliable and readily available workforce, an extremely cooperative and proactive local economic development commission and proximity to important vendors and customers."

"Certainly, I am pleased that Siméus Foods is expanding in Rutherford County," said Sen. Walter H. Dalton (D-Rutherford), who is co-chair of Senate Appropriations Committee. "I am happy that the One North Carolina Fund was a positive factor in that decision."

Rep. Bobby F. England, M.D. (D-Rutherford), agreed. "Rutherford County has unfortunately had one of our state's highest unemployment rates in recent months and we must continue our efforts to bring new, good paying jobs to our area," England said. "Siméus Foods has been an important part of our